



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Announces Dredging of Rochester Harbor Channel And Repair of West Pier to Begin Within 30 Days

Washington, DC – Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today at the Ferry Terminal Departures Hall in Rochester announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin dredging the Rochester Harbor Channel and repairing the West Pier within the next 30 days. Rep. Slaughter was joined by Jack Rintoul, Lt. Colonel John Hurley, and Bruce Sanders from the Corps.

Rep. Slaughter secured \$1.466 million in funding for these projects in the FY08 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

“The Rochester waterfront is an enormous regional asset,” said Rep. Slaughter. **“I am very pleased that I was able to secure funding so that we can maintain the Rochester Harbor and sustain it as an economic driver.”**

Failure to dredge the harbor would effectively shut it down for commercial interests, resulting in severe economic losses for Western New York. The Corps estimates that without this dredging, further shoaling will limit local commercial activities and cost supported industries \$1.4 million annually.

“Whether you fish, boat, visit the summer festivals, or just walk along the pier, this is great news at the start of the summer season,” continued Rep. Slaughter.

Dredging and restoration efforts will ensure that Great Lakes cruise ships will be able to dock this summer in Rochester, allowing tourists to patronize businesses and visit local attractions.

Slaughter concluded, **“I am delighted that the Corps is scheduled to finish the most critical repairs in time for the Charlotte Harbor and Carousel Festival in early June.”**

The Charlotte Harbor and Carousel Festival, a three day festival that attracts more than 100,000 visitors to the area and is a boon to the local economy.

BACKGROUND:

The majority of the \$1.466 million Rep. Slaughter has secured will be applied to the dredging activities, with the balance dedicated to making the West Pier safer for pedestrians. Repairs include restringing the cable railing system and fixing the concrete walking surface.

The Corps has contracted Ryba Marine to begin dredging the channel in early May. At a typical rate of 5,000 cubic yards per day, it will take approximately 45-60 days to dredge 245,000 cubic yards of material from the channel.

The Rochester Harbor Channel was last dredged in 2004, using funding secured by Rep. Slaughter in the FY04 federal budget.

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